

R E M A R K S

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on February 22, 2006.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 1, 5, 13, 14, and 18 are amended to focus on the oxanorbornanediyl embodiments of the present invention. Claim 23 is cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal is respectfully solicited. Claims 1-22 and 24-26 are pending in the application.

INTERVIEW. Examiner Sin Lee is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative Richard Gallagher during an interview of 17 May 2006. During the course of the interview, Examiner Lee indicated that limiting the claims herein to the oxanorbornanediyl embodiments of the present invention would overcome all rejections of record.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS. Claims 1, 4, and 13-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2001/0044071 A1 (Hasegawa '071) in view of US 6,280,900 B1 (Chiba). Office Action, pages 2-4. Claims 1, 4-8, and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0004178 A1 (Hasegawa '178) in view of Chiba. Office Action, pages 4-5. It is respectfully submitted – and it is believed that Examiner Lee agrees – that the claims as amended herein distinguish over the teachings of the references cited.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 9-26 were *provisionally* rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 4, 9, and 10 of copending application Serial No. 10/936,753. It is believed that Examiner Lee agreed that once the present application is otherwise in condition for allowance, the provisional double patenting rejection will be held in abeyance.

Conclusion

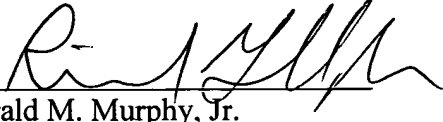
The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections of record and to pass this application to Issue.

If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP at (703) 205-8008.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2448, under Order No. 0171-1023P from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  #28,781
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No.: 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
Falls Church, Virginia
(703) 205-8000
Attorneys for Applicant